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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 62nd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/771 and Add.1 and Corr.1 and A/52/771/Add.2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.5).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.35

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May the representative of Costa Rica, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 122 (a), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/52/L.35) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 8, the words "and the amount of ___ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations";

(b) In operative paragraph 11, the words "and of the interest income of 1,671,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 November 1995" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(c) In operative paragraph 12, the words "and of the interest income of 1,671,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 November 1995" were inserted after the words "30 November 1995";

(d) Operative paragraph 13 was deleted and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands orally amended the draft resolution by replacing footnote 2, which had read "A/52/860 and Add.5", by "A/52/860/Add.5", and by inserting the words "as an ad hoc arrangement" after the word "Decides" in operative paragraph 8.

6. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.35, as orally revised and amended, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Germany (see A/C.5/52/SR.68).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, by which the Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1139 (1997) of 21 November 1997,

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[1] A/52/771 and Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2.

[2] A/52/860/Add.5.

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/232 of 13 June 1997,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 50.1 million United States dollars, representing 4.3 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 31 May 1998, notes that some 20.4 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the operational requirements of such posts;

8. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 35,400,100 dollars gross (34,506,400 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the amount of 1,756,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be apportioned among Member States at the monthly rate of 2,950,008 dollars gross (2,875,533 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1998;

9. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 878,700 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

10. Decides further that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share of the estimated other income of 15,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share of the surplus balance of 1,071,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 November 1995 and of the interest income of 1,671,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 November 1995;

12. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their share of the surplus balance of

1,071,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 November 1995 and of the interest income of 1,671,000 dollars for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 November 1995 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force".